



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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While reading through my Face of Fillmore files this week, I came upon information about a home at 135 West 300 South. The paper said it was built in 1892 so I decided to investigate. I drove down the street but didn't spot a home from that era, so I made a U-turn at the intersection and tried again. I called the owner and asked its location. I had driven by it twice without realizing it.

The home I am referring to is owned by Irene Scott and is indeed nearly 130 years old. It has been given a face-lift of sorts and at first is difficult to recognize as a late 19th century home. Years ago, the native brick it was built from was stuccoed and it has since been attractively painted in tan with brown trim. A garage has been added and there is another addition to the rear of the home. The yard is very well-kept and a great addition to the neighborhood. When one looks carefully, the shape and originally architecture of the house can be seen, and it isn't difficult to imagine what it looked like before the stucco.

Hans Rasmussen, the builder of the home, was born in Denmark in 1835 and joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints when he was in his early twenties. At the age of 27 he traveled by sailing ship to the United States and then on from New York to Omaha by train. There he joined a company of Saints and drove an ox team to Utah, arriving at his destination in Fillmore in 1862.

The following spring, he was "called" to drive an ox team back across the plains and return again that same year.

A few years later he met Hannah Sorenson and married her. He financially helped her family make the trip from Denmark to Utah. The couple had two children, but Hannah died tragically at an early age.



Hans Rasmussen, the builder of the home, with his son Franklin. The children with them are those of Hans' son William and his first wife

Two years after Hannah's death, Hans married her sister Hansine and the couple was blessed with eight children.

Hans was known as a thrifty man who was always grateful to his church which brought him to America. He was a kind man and was friends to everyone in the community. Even in his later years, he was able to fulfill his church duties and to live alone, taking care of his home and garden by himself.

He died in 1932 and was survived by three daughters and two sons: Mrs. Joseph Hatton, Mrs. Ella Alexander, Mrs. Florence Walton, William Rasmussen and Franklin Rasmussen.

The home was occupied by two families during the Great Depression in the 1930's and then later owned by Franklin Rasmussen. Long-time residents will remember him as the drama teacher at Millard High. This came at the end of his play writing and acting career which took him to many areas around the country including Hollywood. He even worked in the theater in New Zealand and Australia. He rubbed shoulders with many stars along the way and was friends with Cary Grant and Gary Cooper. Upon his retirement, the school enticed him to teach drama which was a real plus for the community.



The Irene Scott home

The house was later purchased by John D. Rasmussen and that is when the remodeling took place in 1979. The basement of the home was made of stone with a dirt floor and this is one thing that remains unchanged.

Irene Mitchell Scott bought the home in 1986 and continued the remodeling projects, making it the attractive home it is today.